

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 130876  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:RDOUTHARD:DH  
APPROVED BY AF/S:DPETTERSON  
AF/S:DKEOGH  
S/S-O-TGMARTIN

-----091788 232021Z /70

O 231957Z MAY 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 130876

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: X-GDS-1

TAGS: PDEV, RH, US, UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIA; OWEN CONVERSATION WITH NKOMO IN  
LONDON

REF: LONDON 07577

1. FULFILLING PROMISE MADE IN PARA 3 OF REFTEL, BRITISH  
EMBOFF SQUIRE CALLED ON AF/S AFTERNOON OF MAY 19 TO  
SHARE THE CONVERSATION WHICH OCCURED ON MAY 11  
BETWEEN DAVID OWEN AND JOSHUA NKOMO IN LONDON. SQUIRE  
BEGAN BY SAYING THAT THE BRITISH HAD AGREED NOT TO  
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PUBLICIZE THE MEETING AT NKOMO'S INSISTENCE, AND HOPED  
WE WOULD HOLD VERY CLOSELY THE FACT THAT THE MEETING  
TOOK PLACE. SQUIRE REPORTED THAT FOLLOWING POINTS, SOME  
OF WHICH APPEAR IN REFTEL, WERE MADE DURING THE CONVERSA-  
TION.

2. ALTHOUGH NOT OPPOSED TO GRAHAM-LOW MISSION, NKOMO

WAS NOT KEEN ON THE IDEA. HE SAID THEY WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED "NEGOTIATORS", BUT MERELY ENVOYS. NKOMO STRESSED THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAD TO BE BASED ON RESOLUTION 415 AND SHOULD INCLUDE CARVER-CHAND, PATRIOTIC FRONT AND SMITH. WHEN OWEN MADE POINT THAT "SMITH" NOW TRANSLATES

INTO "EXECUTIVE COUNCIL", NKOMO REPLIED THAT SMITH COULD BRING ANYONE HE WANTED TO THE NEGOTIATIONS. NKOMO SAID THAT HE LIKED SOME OF THE CARVER-CHAND PROPOSALS, AND THAT HE HAD NO MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH CARVER AND CHAND IN THEIR PROPOSED ROLES. HOWEVER, NKOMO FOLLOWED THIS AFFIRMATION WITH VAGUE QUALIFICATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS ABOUT THE OPERATION OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER AND THE UN FORCE. FOR EXAMPLE, NKOMO USED THE METAPHOR, "UMBRELLA", WHEN DESCRIBING HIS VIEW OF THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF A UN FORCE, BUT WHAT PRECISELY HE HAD IN MIND WAS UNCLEAR, ACCORDING TO SQUIRE'S REPORT.

3. OWEN SAID HE BELIEVED GRAHAM AND LOW MISSION COULD BE USEFUL IN THAT THEY COULD WORK ON INFLUENCING THE PARTIES IN SALISBURY. NKOMO APPARENTLY SAW SOME MERIT IN THIS REASONING AND SAID THAT PERHAPS THE SALISBURY PARTIES WOULD BE READY TO NEGOTIATE IN A MATTER OF WEEKS WHEN THEY REALIZE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO END TO THE FIGHTING.

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4. NKOMO ADMITTED PROBLEMS WITH ZANU, BUT SAID THAT A BREAK WITH THEM WOULD DISPLEASE THE OAU, AND THAT ZANU WOULD ASSUME AN EVEN MORE IRRECONCILABLE POSTURE, WITH RESPECT TO NEGOTIATIONS, UNLESS MACHEL SHOULD INTERVENE AND JAWBONE ZANU INTO PARTICIPATING. (IN PASSING, NKOMO REMARKED THAT NETO HAD MORE INFLUENCE WITH MACHEL THAN ANY OTHER FRONT LINE LEADER.) NKOMO ADDED THAT THE RECENT ZANU ARRESTS OF MUDZI, GUMBO, ETC. WERE UNFORTUNATE BECAUSE THESE WERE GOOD MEN. HE SAID HE FINDS MUGABE EASY TO RELATE TO, AND THAT HE MUCH PREFERS HIM TO THE HARDLINE TONGOGARA. NKOMO SAID HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH ZANU IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS (FROM MAY 11).

5. OWEN POINTED OUT SOME PROBLEMS HE HAD WITH PF PROPOSALS RE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS (SQUIRE DID NOT AMPLIFY). NKOMO, DURING DISCUSSION OF PF IDEAS, SAID THAT HE IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT ROLE FOR SUCH CURRENT RHODESIAN MILITARY CHIEFS AS WALLS AND HICKMAN.

6. SQUIRE SAID THAT OWEN, IN REFLECTING ON THIS CONVERSATION, CONCLUDED THAT NKOMO IS SERIOUS ABOUT NEGOTIA-

TIONS AND WANTS THEM TO PROCEED ON THE BASIS OF THE  
AAP, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON RESOLUTION 415.  
MOREOVER, OWEN BELIEVES THAT NKOMO DOES NOT WANT TO  
SPLIT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. SQUIRE COMMENTED THAT  
NKOMO'S CONCERNS HAVE BEEN FED INTO THE BRITISH IDEAS  
ON FURTHER STEPS, BUT HE DID NOT ELABORATE. VANCE

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY AF/S:DKEOGH

APPROVED BY AF/S:DKPETTERSON

S/S-O:KDSCOTT

-----103463 241817Z /46

O 241812Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 130876

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 130876 ACTION LONDON LUSAKA GABORONE  
MAPUTO DAR ES SALAAM PRETORIA USUN NEW YORK MAY 23.

QUOTE O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 130876

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## Message Attributes

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**Draft Date:** 23 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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